



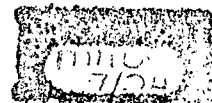
COACHELLA VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

POST OFFICE BOX 1058 • COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA 92236 • TELEPHONE (714) 398-2651

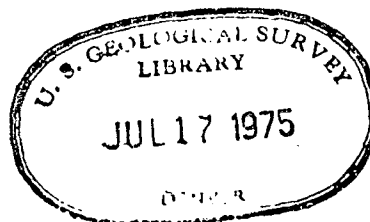
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July 10, 1975



U.S. Department of Interior
Geological Survey
Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225



Re: Place Names Section

Gentlemen:

In an effort to learn when Coachella Valley first received its name, a search of old maps indicates that the U.S. Geological Survey placed the name on its maps prior to 1900.

The oldest map the writer has found shows the U.S.G.S. "California-Indio Quadrangle" printed in 1904 as showing the name "Coachella Valley."

Could you provide any information as to the year or date the name "Coachella Valley" first appeared on U.S.G.S. maps? And, possibly, how it obtained this name? The information is being sought in connection with this area's centennial.

The story that has currency here is that U.S.G.S. named it "Conchilla Valley" because of the millions of tiny shells (Conch-illa meaning little seashells) but in printing an error was made to "Coachella" and the name has remained. This, while an interesting story, stretches the imagination a bit far it seems to many. Perhaps your inquiry will shed some light on this subject.

Yours very truly,

Ole J. Nordland
Secretary

NOTED

JUL 25 1975

Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names

OJN:mah